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Canary birds : a
complete guide for
their breeding,
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CANARY BIRDS

A Complete Guide for their Breeding,
Rearing and Treatment in Health and
Disease

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By

DOROTHY LOUISE BURKETT

GEORGIA LIBRARY COMMISSION
ATLANTA, GA.

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Canon

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PREFACE

WITHOUT a doubt the canary is the most common of all cage birds—none is better known for a household pet. So lovely is it to behold, so cheerful to have this songster in one's home and so simple are its requirements as to food and care that it needs little attention. Because of all these things and because of its pleasing songs and interesting habits the canary is a universal favorite.

Most people who have canaries keep them in the cages in which they were bought; they give feed and water but know but little about the traits or the care and keeping of these birds. Even if the canary is of any particular breed, or if one requires information about canaries, about the only source of help is at the bird shops, and there one gets little if any satisfaction. It is because of this lack of information that this book is sent forth to be of assistance to the novice as to the method of selecting a bird, to supply him with information on the different breeds and their varieties, to describe the manner of feeding and to out-

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line a method of caring and handling the bird when it is added to the home.

The regular routine of duty towards the bird must be carefully followed. Sick-ness and health must be closely watched, food and drink and their adjuncts must be supplied with regularity, and the bath, in which these birds take such delight and which is a festal hour to them, must not be forgotten.

The health of the canary depends upon the certainty that these necessary attentions are bestowed upon it. Neglect to exercise the care which its cultivation has made essential, will soon empty the cage of song and songster.

The canary is accustomed to captivity. His cage is now his natural home. He knows nothing of the wild freedom of the open skies, nothing of the daily and hourly vicissitudes of the weather, nothing of the changes of the season, nothing of the struggle for existence which the quest of his food involves. Nor is he familiar with the ways and means by which the feathered races maintain the combat for life. His companions have been those of his own race and of like condition. The process of evolution has made a new creature, all the

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more lovable because his dependence upon man has been forced upon him. He is the victim of circumstances, the creature of artificial training, and his very helplessness appeals to the sympathies of all who love pets and who cherish a kindly feeling for those whose very life depends upon thoughtful care.

This book has for its object the encouragement of the sympathy and care of which we have spoken, and for those who keep and train these feathered pets for their own pleasure as well as for those who keep them for professional reasons. Should this book, therefore, prove helpful in improving the comfort and well-being of these lovely and lovable home songsters, in assisting the home caretakers in their daily tasks of looking after these pets, and in securing the most satisfactory results for health and song, the author will feel that her efforts have not been without some measure of success.

DOROTHY LOUISE BURKETT.

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CHAPTER I

ORIGIN AND HISTORY

In considering the early history of the canary, we are confronted, as with the historical research into any living thing, with the conflicting ideas and stories of the origin and early domestication. The origin of the canary as a cage bird is as obscure as the early history of other domesticated animals. It is generally accepted as a fact that canaries were first introduced into Italy in the early part of the 16th century. These were specimens of the wild finch (*serinus canarius*) from the Canary Islands, whence came their name, and also from Madeira, the Azores, the Fortunate Isles and some parts of South Africa.

Closely allied to this serin finch is another canary type found in the Canary Islands and by some authorities called the wild canary. Other authorities claim the serin finch is the true wild canary. Be the origin whatever it may, in a wild state these two forms are so similar in color that to a novice they are scarcely distinguishable. With bird catching, a widespread prac-

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tice in middle and southern Europe, the serin finch would often be made captive and be accepted without question as a canary. Thus, both forms may have been interbred until all distinguishable differences were lost. The original canary, whether serin or true wild canary, in its native haunt was much different in color from its modern pure-bred descendant. Voyagers tell us that these wild birds of the Canary Islands have mostly gray plumage and this tint prevails to a considerable extent in some of the domesticated varieties which are rather numerous. White, gray, yellow, green and brown of different shades, and in varying proportions, are the common colors of the birds bred in confinement. Undoubtedly food, climate, and intermixture of breeds have had some effect in producing them.

The exact date of the introduction of the canary into England is not known. It is mentioned by Gesner who briefly wrote about the canary in 1555. Gesner was a Swedish naturalist and an authority on birds. In one of his books he speaks of the finches,—“of this kind are those birds the English call canaries,” and he goes on to relate how they were imported from the

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Canary Islands; also Aldrovandus in his "*Ornithology*" describes the birds, then esteemed a great rarity. This book bore the date of 1610.

According to some authors, the Island of Elba was the first European ground on which the canary found a resting place. A ship bound for Leghorn, they say, having on board a number of these sweet songsters, foundered near this island, on which the birds, set at liberty by the accident, found a refuge, and the climate was so congenial to their nature, that they remained and bred and would probably have remained to the present day, had not their beauty and melody attracted the attention of bird catchers who hunted them so assiduously that not a single specimen was left on the island.

From Italy the birds soon found their way into France and Germany, from which latter country, and the Tyrol, we now derive our principal supply. In Germany, indeed, the breeding of canaries was adopted with characteristic thoroughness and in Ray's translation of Willoughby's "*Ornithology*," published in 1678, it is stated that canary birds of late years have been brought abundantly out of Germany and are therefore now called German birds;

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and these German birds in handsomeness and song excel those brought out of the Canaries.

Canary breeding and training are conducted in Germany on a very large scale, and in accordance with well established rules and principles. The first systematic breeding for song was by the people of the Hartz Mountains, in Germany. Later the people of St. Andreasberg did much towards breeding and training. Today one buys a bird imported from either the Hartz Mountains or St. Andreasberg, or it is American bred. The St. Andreasberg is considered the choicest of present day canaries, but this, of course, is open to question.

In England, canary societies have existed for upwards of a century and for the last fifty years in England they have had annual shows and competitions for prizes; and immense prices have been given for prize canaries.

In our own pet stock shows, the canary has become an attractive feature, with interest keenly manifest and many prizes offered. Competition is strong, with an increasing number of breeders and exhibitors actively at work in the improvement of our American stock of canaries.

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Charles Reiche, a German importer, brought the first large importation of canaries to the United States in 1840. He also introduced them into China whence we now receive a small number of so-called Chinese canaries from time to time. This importation increased considerably and up until the World War, very few were being raised here. Since then, however, reliable bird dealers are now encouraging it and we are beginning to see marked results.

Success is absolutely guaranteed, given proper attention, though it is conceded that climatic conditions in some sections are preferable. Southern California is undoubtedly the place par-excellence for them. The Southern states, too, are a splendid territorial region for the improvement and breeding of all races of canary birds.

CHAPTER II

BREEDS AND VARIETIES

When one decides to purchase a canary, he usually wishes to know which is the most popular and best adapted for his means. Naturally there are different classes of purchasers: the person who wants the bird for his home—the average American home-maker; the person who desires a bird for breeding purposes, and he who wants it for professional reasons. These last two classes are not wholly ignorant of the subject and though the first one may not be, he usually is apt to know nothing about canaries, relying wholly on the advice of his dealer.

From wild canaries have come the domesticated species, with which we are acquainted. Habit, food, climate, selection and breeding have given rise to at least fourteen distinct strains of which there are about thirty distinguishable varieties, so it would take too long to give exactly the differentiation, and the average buyer for a home bird is not particularly interested in the close distinctions made between the several varieties.

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Henrandez, in 1587, speaks of the canary as "wholly yellow in color, save for the tips of the wings;" so we see variation among domesticated canaries began early. This variation is not really a very complicated study, being separated into two great divisions: the plain and the variegated; in other words, according to color division. The two principal colors are yellow and buff—also termed "jouque" and "mealy."

Thus we say, a canary is a clear yellow or a clear buff, an unevenly marked yellow, or unevenly marked buff, a green-yellow, or a green-buff, etc. The former are sometimes called Gay Birds and the latter Fancy Birds. There is also a variety called the Lizard, the plumage of which is of a greenish-bronze throughout excepting the upper part of the head, which is covered by a patch of clear yellow. This variety is looked upon as the nearest of kin to the original stock. The general characteristics of the first class are silkiness in the texture of the feather, a rich color with bright and glossy surface, in general a very sleek appearance; while the bird classed with the "buffs" will be one who will not "be so tight in feather," but a larger, coarser, and more heavily built bird; in general he will lack the glossy and

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bright sheen of plumage and have a "mealy appearance."

The different breeds of the canary family are: the Norwich, the Yorkshire, the Cinnamon, the Lizard, the Border Fancy, the London Fancy, the Scotch Fancy, the Lancastershire Coppy, the Belgian Fancy, the Crest, the Green canary, the Dutch Frill canary and the Roller.

The Norwich and Yorkshire canaries are perhaps the most popular of the English breeds. These are primarily birds of color, the correct plumage being a deep orange. The Norwich is a compactly built bird of a cobby shape, the general outline being composed of a series of curves, while the Yorkshire, on the other hand, is a long slim bird, with an erect carriage, feathers fitting close and tight all over like that of good fighting birds that are called game cocks. In show condition a really typical bird looks as if it had been especially "well-groomed;" not a feather out of place, thus presenting a slim and most elegant appearance.

In the Yorkshire we consider first its shape, then its length, not width as in the case of the Norwich whose characteristics are a stout body, broad chest and neat head.

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A healthy Norwich should have a smart appearance with bright eyes and every indication of being full of life and vigor. It should stand semi-erect and well over the perch, whereas a chief point to remember about the Yorkshire canary is its upright carriage, and beautiful slimness.

Taking next as birds of "position," the Scotch Fancy and Belgian Fancy canaries are perhaps the most unique. They are pretty much alike in peculiarity of shape, though quite distinct as to breeds. Glancing from the beak over the head, neck, body and tail of the ideal Scotch Fancy, one finds in shape an unbroken curve or half-moon effect, whilst in a Belgian Fancy we find the two sides of a right angle formed; from the shoulders to the tail being the long side and from the shoulders to the beak the other line of the right angle. Thus a good Scotch Fancy stands on its perch, with head and neck curved well over the perch in front and the tail curved well under it. On the other hand a Belgian throws up its shoulders and brings its head down below their level; the back and tail forming a perpendicular line with feet kept close together. Also the Belgian gives an appearance of being hump-backed.

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Another interesting specimen is the Cinnamon canary. In shape it is nearest to a large Norwich canary, more upright in carriage and not so heavily built. In color, it is like unto its name. This is not a very common variety as it is very rare and difficult to obtain.

The Lizard canary is quite different in size, shape and color from any other breed, and upon first view is rarely taken for a canary at all. There are two varieties known as "gold" and "silver" according as whether the body is yellow or silvery gray. The wings and tail are black, the back is spangled with numerous, somewhat triangular spots, and the crown is unspotted and light in color.

The "crested" canary is another unique bird and is distinguished by having a crest which covers the crown completely and falls below the level of the eyes. Another, the "Dutch Frill" canary is a large bird with long curling feathers. The Lancastershire canary is the largest variety of the canary family, standing head and shoulders above all others. It is divided into two kinds: the crested or coppy, and the plain head. These are in turn sub-divided into four classes: the

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clear yellow, clear buff, the marked yellow and marked buff.

In contrast to this "giant" species, is found the smallest of the canary family, the Border Fancy. Originally called the common canary, it has within the last thirty years been bred to better quality, finer plumage and richer song. In the present day "common" canaries one finds an exceedingly interesting song bird that is full of life and spirit, though very smart in appearance.

This now brings us to what many dealers claim is the most popular and most important of the breeds—the Roller. From Germany comes the "Roller." Over two hundred years ago, that nation was supplying trained Rollers to half of Europe. We can trace as far back as the 17th century in Trieste the devoted and energetic training and development of the birds' song on a scientific basis in the lucrative industry of Roller breeding. From the districts of St. Andreasberg and the Hartz Mountains come these most popular specimens.

What is this song of the Roller, that is so marvelous and unusual? It is a complicated set of liquid trills taught to these canary birds over a long period of time

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covering many years of careful study and training. This rolling canary song is in "tours," as they are called, given in a soft, low, rolling fashion. "The range of the Roller song is from C in the Bass clef to G sharp in the treble above the staff. These tours are known as Hollow Roll, Bass Roll, Koller, Bell Roll, Holler Bell, Bell Tour, Glucke, Glucke Roll, Bell Glucke, Water Glucke, Flute notes, Schockle, Water Roll, and Deep Bubbling-Water-Tour. Some birds will develop only five or six of these 'tours,' while others will sing nine or ten."

The Roller should sing with his beak practically shut tight, so as to allow the soft, rolling quality which is so desirable. When the beak is opened, a choppy note is developed. This explains the difference when a dealer speaks of a "chopper" and a "roller." Some birds are apt to both "roll" and "chop" and in many cases the dealer is clever enough to sell such birds as unusual and therefore desirable birds. However, let us not forget that a perfect Roller is by far the more valuable. Sometimes, a person having several Rollers, desires a "Chopper" for the simple reason of having a variation in the canary song, to offset any

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monotony perhaps. This is really through the result of ignorance, for if your pure Roller is intermingled it is too apt to lose its desirable quality of tone and pretty soon you will find it "chopping" too. And then the value of your Rollers will be lessened.

CHAPTER III

CAGES AND FITTINGS

Now that we have selected our bird satisfactorily, our attention is called in housing it properly. Again, as in the case of bird selection, we must obtain a cage best suited for our requirements. If you are one of the numerous American home-folk who desires the bird for merely decoration as well as "company" reasons, then you will need an entirely different cage from those who will breed them.

First of all in choosing cages, the primary consideration is the comfort of the bird rather than any ornate appearance in the cage. There are many good types on the market and if money is no object, very lovely ones in any "period" may be obtained which will not mar the carefully decorated home—but rather tend to add to the beauty of the room.

Instead of hanging the cage on a hook to the wall as was once the mode, a standard with a huge loop or half-circle has been put on the market. Within this loop hangs the cage, giving a glorified halo to one's canary.

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Cages used to be made out of wood, but because they are more apt to harbor insects, they have been discarded, and the wire cage has gained in popularity. Using the wire as a basis, ingenious models have been designed. Lovely color schemes have been inspired with paint, enamel and lacquer. Wire cages should never be painted with paints containing poisonous materials, as the metal, being non-absorbent, the paint may loosen and peel off, and eaten by the bird may cause its death. As a matter of fact enamel is the most satisfactory "finish" for wire cages. Each coat should be put on thinly and allowed to get thoroughly dry before another coat is applied. A very pleasing effect is obtained by using pale blue or what is known as "hedge sparrow egg tint," for the inside, and black for the exterior. The standard and loop would be tinted accordingly to carry out the color scheme. Red and yellow lacquer and a beautiful green are popular colors. Brass is used very extensively. Many people prefer brass cages, and these are hung within a brass loop on a brass standard. The lacquered cages are the most expensive and many pleasing effects are obtained.

The bell and pagoda shaped cages are

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the most popular as to shape of cages in this country though a square cage affords more room for exercise. It is absolutely necessary that the cage be roomy enough and there should be at least two perches and three are preferable, inasmuch as hopping about is the only means the bird has to get exercise. One perch may be placed at either end and a third in the center elevated above the middle of the cage. These perches must allow easy access to the food and water vessels. A rather convenient arrangement is to run one perch lengthwise of the cage and to place the other two perches transversely above it at either end. In this way the lower perch is in easy range of the receptacles and the upper perches afford ample room for exercise.

To avoid any litter caused by dirt and seeds thrown out by the bird, a novel feature is the projecting rim or ledge on the bottom of the cage which is simply fastened to the upper part by hooks and catches. This can be easily removed for cleaning. Care, however, must be taken to fasten securely the bottom to the top, or one of these days one's bird may be found "missing," for many a bird has been lost because the bottom of the

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cage has fallen out after the cage was hung up, thus releasing the bird.

In some of the newest models of cages, the bottom pulls out like a drawer, thus obviating any such danger. Also a very fine mesh wire is placed around the bottom of the cage like a screen so as to keep the seeds from being thrown out of the cage. It gives the appearance of a fine screen and does away with the need of a cloth bag which was the custom with the older types of cages.

The receptacles for food and water are very safe and convenient; tiny barrels with glass cups set in them and open on one side, are attached to the side of the cage, not hung below, the open side turned inward. Some people prefer to place the vessels inside the cage attached on the bottom to the sides.

One method of keeping the birds clean and healthy is to provide them with a bath. Besides, they love it. If birds are ill, a bath seems to be their most universal remedy and they take to the water bath naturally. When a bird looks "under the weather," provide a bath for it; soon it will be indulging in it and soon after partake of a hearty lunch. Then the patient will brush

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up and return to active life. If an unhappy bird can be induced to bathe it is the best of signs that it is getting better. Canaries should be daily supplied with fresh water for a bath; they will not bathe in stale or dirty water. The ideal way is to have a bath-cage, having an earthenware pan. This is made to hook on the front of the cage and it entirely covers the opening of the door, the door being left opened during the bathing period. If this cannot be obtained, a canary bath-tub or even common vegetable dish of small size will answer; unhook the bottom of the cage and place the dish of water inside. After the canary has finished its bath, remove the bath-tub and fasten the bottom of the cage in its proper position. In case the bottom is non-detachable, the dish can be placed inside the cage through the door. But never neglect giving your canary his bath. He revels in it!

The cage will need some attention every day, and twice a week the bottom of the cage should be detached and washed, dried thoroughly and covered with fine river sand or gravel. This is essential to the bird's health. Do not use marine sand as it contains salt which is injurious.

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The cage should be placed near a window, but in such a way that it will not be exposed fully to any burning rays of the sun or to chilling winds. One can obtain very attractive coverings at any big department store for this protection. Lovelier yet is a hedge of foliage between the bird and the window. This hedge may be a box full of roses, ivy, ferns or other plants set on a shelf about five inches wide. This adds to the bird's delight and enhances its beauty.

CHAPTER IV.

FEEDING

The feeding requirements of a canary are simple. For those who have these birds merely as pets, all that is necessary is to fill the seedhopper each morning with a mixture of canary and rape seed. The best variety of canary seed is the Spanish seed; and the German or summer rape is the best. This latter is a very small round seed, of purplish brown or reddish color; it has a sweet taste, of nutty flavor.

This mixture may be obtained, already prepared, at any reliable dealer. Hemp seed is a valuable food for winter, but because it is so oily, only a little should be given once a week to prevent the birds from becoming sluggish; it is also very fattening.

A bit of toast or cracker may be put between the wires for Dickey to peck at; also the cage should never lack a piece of cuttlefish bone. This is hung up for the bird to peck at, and is most essential as it contains a large amount of lime which strengthens the shell of eggs and is also food for grow-

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ing birds. Since birds have no teeth they must depend upon grit to grind their food; hence a bit of very finely ground oyster shell and sand should be available for this purpose.

A bit of apple, lettuce or any other green should also be given. Dandelion seeds as well as the leaves of this plant are splendid occasional food.

Besides this sort of feeding a most important feature is the watering of canaries. The water-vessel must be kept clean and filled with fresh water daily and even twice a day in the summer.

It is possible to vary the diet of a canary. Color-feeding gives a rich, decided tone of color and acts as well as a beneficial tonic fed from the time the birds are eight weeks old through the first month—from the middle of July to the middle of October.

Color-food consists of ripe, sweet red pepper, the flowers of mustard, marigold and nasturtium. A good recipe calls for two ounces of pure cayenne pepper to each pound of ground sweet red pepper; add two ounces of olive oil and mix to a paste. The oil assists in extracting the color and also produces a gloss or sheen on the plum-

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age. In case of diarrhoea use pulverized charcoal.

During the breeding season, egg producing food must be given daily as soon as birds are paired. Pass hard-boiled egg through a sieve and add equal amount of bread or unsalted cracker crumbs. This mixture may be given to unmated birds as well, once a week. One canary authority advocates bits of brown sugar in egg-food as a preventative for egg-binding in young females. When the young are hatched, egg food must be supplied within a short time. If there is any tendency to leg weakness a bit of fresh cod liver oil in the food will correct the ailment almost as if by magic. Cod liver oil possesses a vitamin that helps in the elaboration of the mineral salts and therefore is beneficial for all young birds—house birds as well as those of the poultry flocks. Cod liver oil is called “bottled sunshine” and is especially valuable when birds and fowls are not provided with direct sunshine. Sunshine passing through window panes is robbed of its ultra-violet rays, the glass filtering out this principle as the rays pass through it. The many experiments made with poultry flocks indicate that cod liver oil is a valuable addition to all poul-

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try and bird rations where young and old birds are enclosed in cages and pens and not allowed in the open to receive naturally the regular "soaking in" of direct sunlight.

For further variation of the canary diet: watercress, wild oats and other grasses are relished. Bread moistened in scalded milk given cold at intervals is very beneficial. A craving for animal food may be satisfied by bits of raw steak, flies, insects, ant's eggs, small red worms, gnats, spiders and meal worms.

Throughout the year, canaries should have plenty of green food; cabbage, salad, celery, turnip tops, chickweed, watercress—in fact any green food available; sweet apple, also a little boiled carrot or cauliflower, are to be supplied occasionally.

Summarized, feeding consists of doing the following things: Providing natural seeds; green feed; animal food as insects and worms; grit; cuttle-fish bone; "bottled sunshine" in cod liver oil; and variety.

CHAPTER V

MATING AND BREEDING

This chapter is of interest primarily to the fancier, but even the keeper of a canary as a "pet" should know at least something about the propagation of these fascinating creatures. Breeding of canaries is attended with many difficulties and disappointments because the conditions under which the hatching season is conducted are radically different from what they are in the natural state. They are more artificial than for any class of domesticated poultry or domesticated animals.

Nevertheless, somebody must carry on these breeding operations, and to those interested there is the reward in learning more about these charming pets and always the possibility of producing specimens finer and better than the parent stock. Even though, therefore, the most of us do not look forward to becoming canary breeders, if we keep one of these birds, we get satisfaction out of knowing as much about these songsters as possible to acquire.

The first steps one should take as the

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breeding season approaches is to clean the cages, cover the sand trays with fine clear sand, and finely crushed oyster shell, and set before the birds the right kind of food for health and egg production. If you are a beginner, consult a canary expert or dealer as to the fine points of mating the birds. Experience indicates that to obtain the best results in pairing, the males should be from two to five years old and the females older than the male with which they are mated. Some authorities claim that such mating will give more males, which are desired, than females. But hens one year old, mated to cocks two or three years old is the common practice. An old hen should be mated with a young cock.

Canaries, like most classes of domestic fowls, are polygamous. One male may be used with two or three females or a male used with one female, as one prefers. It is easier to handle the birds in pairs and one male to one female gives the male more time to take care of the young when hatched from the eggs.

The birds begin to pair more or less naturally in late winter—the last of March or early April. To effect such pairing they may be placed in a cage, or room if such

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is available. Canaries "spruce up" as early as February—they become lively, the cocks sing excitedly and the hens jump and hop about and chirp, glad they are alive.

When two of these birds are first placed together in a cage they not infrequently start to quarrel but very soon, however, they get adjusted to their quarters and to each other and settle down as if at home.

After a couple of days together, the pair begins to look about for nesting material. It is a good plan to put this in about the third or fourth day. Clean cotton, bits of tissue paper, slender blades of dry grass, a little moss, and clean hair may be put in the cage. One can buy "nesting" from one's dealer. The birds will pull this about and play with it for hours but after a time the cock begins feeding the hen and the pair becomes very friendly and loving. When this occurs, it is time to remove the waste nesting, providing a new supply for the permanent nest. A felt lining is a good thing to put in the nest-pan or nest-box, and a fresh supply of clean moss, hair and other material thrust in the cage for the real act of nest-building. It is best to let the birds build their own nest, although sometimes it is necessary to help them as some birds

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are inclined to be lax in doing this work. When the nest has been satisfactorily completed, one must keep a close look-out for the first egg. There is no sure rule as to when laying may be expected to begin. The first egg is usually laid in a week to a month after the birds are paired. Normally it is laid in about two weeks. One egg is laid each day—generally at the same hour. The number of eggs laid is usually four, although five are not uncommon, and instances have been known of six. Four is the rule and most satisfactory number from the breeder's point of view.

The eggs should be removed as soon as laid, supplying their place with a china nest-egg. Place the eggs in a box, the small end downwards, in fine, dry sand or corn meal. When the hen has ceased to lay, the eggs are put back into the nest to be hatched. Removing the eggs and then replacing them postpones incubation and development in those first laid, and makes the time of hatching more even. The normal period of incubation is thirteen days. A young hen may sometimes be troubled with egg-binding. In cases of this kind, oil the vent carefully with a drop of warmed castor oil; if the egg is not laid within a half hour the canary

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should be held for a few minutes with the vent over the steam of hot water. One good method is to fill a narrow-necked jar with hot water, and cover the mouth with cheese-cloth; the female is then held for a few minutes over the rising steam. Often the egg will be laid at once and be caught in the cheese cloth, or deposited in the normal way when the canary hen is returned to the nest. The eggs are sea-green in color, more or less spotted and streaked with reddish brown and violet.

Feeding during this time is very important and canaries will require a little extra food. They should be supplied with a bit of hard boiled egg, mixed with bread crumbs or powdered biscuit. Also, a little summer rape seed scalded, using about a spoonful when cold, after the water is drained off, the rape seed placed in the cage. Also, dust a bit of pulverized charcoal over this with a bit of fine grit—this is a good regulator and aids digestion.

After the canaries are hatched, the chief occupation of the male is to feed the young. If he neglects to do this, one may give the young birds bread or biscuit crumbs crushed and moistened with the yolk of an egg and water, ten times a day. After about two

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weeks, the young are able to feed themselves and begin to twitter. When a month old the youngsters may be taken from the parent birds and confined in separate cages. The sooner they learn to take a bath the better for them; and their cage should never be without green foods—chick-weed, lettuce or water-cress. A hard boiled egg, white and yolk finely chopped, is useful for them and must be constantly fresh. The more soft sunshine they can have, the better. Cod liver oil acts as a good substitute—"bottled sunshine" causes limbs to grow and strengthen!

Canaries often rear two or three broods in a season, and the female may be ready to breed a second time when the young are three weeks old. It is only necessary to provide a second nest and nesting material. The care of the young will then devolve on the male. Nesting material should be provided at once or else the hen may pluck the feathers from her young.

To determine the age and sex of living canaries is difficult and can be attempted only by those who have had long experience as canary fanciers. In nearly all cases, a male is recognized by his proficiency as a songster, but occasionally, a female also

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possesses a clear, full song. When in breeding condition, the sex may be determined by examining the vent. In males it extends outwards, while in females it does not project below the level of the abdomen. The general carriage and attitude of the birds also offer some indication of the sex. The cocks are usually brighter and smarter and altogether bolder than the hens.

In judging age, the feet offer the only solution and even then, these cannot be relied upon. Old birds may be recognized by the projecting blackish scales of the legs, and by their strong claws. Young birds under one year of age have a smooth skin, and the leg scales are smooth and of fine texture. In older birds there is more roughness and greater coarseness. Very old birds, due to the trimming of the claws, show a blunt or rounded claw rather than the sharp and pointed claws of youth.

Canaries have lived many years when cared for properly. It is related that two birds hatched in the same brood and kept separated, -after they left the nest, lived eighteen years, dying within a few weeks of each other. Another case on record is of a canary known to have been at least thirty-four years old when it died!

CHAPTER VI

THE MOLT AND COLOR FEEDING

As with other birds the canary takes on an abnormal condition known as molt—it changes its old dress for a new one. In some cases, as with breeding birds, the molt takes place as early as the middle of July, though it normally occurs at the end of July and during August, reaching its height in September. There are instances where the molt may last into November. The same instinct in wild birds for quiet and retirement prevails with our canaries. Usually no special care is necessary if this rule is followed, and they are left alone.

It is also very important to watch the diet during this period, giving nourishing food to keep up their strength and vitality. For active birds one authority advises a slight quantity of sulphur in a mixture of hard boiled egg and bread crumbs. A weak saffron tea instead of pure drinking water is suggested by some canary specialists for the birds that appear dull and listless. A healthy bird will complete its molt in about eight weeks. It is the unthrifty canary that pro-

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longs the molting period. Naturally, it is of advantage to get the molt over with as quickly as possible. The birds that molt rapidly and normally produce a much superior quality of feather than others that take a longer time to complete the change of dress.

When a canary fails to molt at the proper period it may be necessary to alter its environment somewhat. Two methods followed are: darkening the cage by covering it with a dark cloth, and placing the bird and cage in some part of the house where the temperature is warmer and where the bird will not be disturbed. Quiet and protection from any annoyances are desirable.

Warmth greatly assists in molting but it is absolutely necessary to keep the temperature as even as possible; a sudden change to cold often will stop, or at least check, the molt; moreover, death may result from a sudden cold following a chill on even slight exposure to a cold draft or low temperature.

Warmth is necessary because, at this time, poor Dickey has very few feathers to keep him warm and naturally at this time he feels the loss of his clothes. A light cloth should be hung over the cage at night to prevent a rapid change in temperature and the air

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of the cage getting cold. In the morning when the temperature is still below normal of the day there is also danger from chill because the bird at this time is at a lower degree of vitality than later in the day after light exercise and his usual meals.

Unless the weather is very cold, bathing may be permitted once or twice a week. I have always found this very beneficial to their health as it occupies their attention and aids in inducing them to preen their feathers. A little flaxseed or linseed meal given in the seed supply gives a glossy appearance to the new feathers, thus improving the tone and sheen of the plumage. It is a known fact that certain kinds of food given during the molting period will have a great effect upon the color of plumage.

This is known as color breeding. (See chapter on feeding.)

In feeding for better color, begin the color ration as soon as molting starts. Keep this up until an examination of Dickey's body discloses no more pin feathers on any part of his body. Gently blow the breath into the feathers to give moderate separation for detection of the pin feathers. The color food gives certain substances to the blood supply which are lacking in the ordinary

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ration, and thus supplied, will correct an ordinary deficiency and greatly brighten the delicate tones of the plumage.

If you decide to try your hand in color feeding your efforts will be assisted if you will place your canary in a room where there is a dim light, (the other necessities of warmth, protection, quiet, etc., being provided) in order that the artificial colors passed into the feathers may not fade out before they become firmly fixed or "set" in the feathers. Direct sunlight dissolves out these color shades and therefore must not be permitted to strike any part of a room where the cage is hung. In covering the cage with cloth, make certain that ample ventilation is provided.

Occasionally, a canary will show a dislike to color food, even refuse to eat it. The best way to help Dickey to change his mind is to withhold the usual food diet of seeds, substituting only the color food for a day or two. After a little pecking of the only food in his cage, he discovers this "new stuff" is not so unappetizing after all and thereafter he eagerly partakes of it.

In color feeding use fresh marigold and nasturtium flowers and green peppers instead of the usual green food as supplied

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ordinarily. A few flax seed are needed as during the molt, to give sheen and gloss to the feathers. The standard color preparation is: a hard boiled egg chopped very fine, with which is mixed an equal quantity of stale bread crumbs and a teaspoonful of fresh ground red pepper; mix thoroughly. A fresh supply should be prepared each day, giving each canary about one teaspoonful of the mixture daily. A pinch of brown sugar and a few drops of olive oil may be stirred into the mixture and will be relished. Some breeders add more ground red pepper to the egg-bread mixture—increasing the amount to three or four teaspoonfuls.

Color feeding is preferred for male birds—those in fine fettle and of strong vitality. In these the best results are secured. But remember color feeding is an artificial provision and it lasts only during the period that those artificially colored feathers are carried. When the birds molt the next time, they lose their colored feathers, and take on their old natural coat, unless nature is side-tracked again and color feeding resorted to during each and every molting period.

CHAPTER VII

DISEASES OF CANARIES

One is made most miserable and discouraged to read about the diseases incident to a canary. It is my firm belief that most of these maladies are the result of bad management or neglect and that those who really take conscientious care of their pets will not be troubled by many of them.

Cleanliness and a simple diet with greens are the best means of preserving a bird in health. If, perchance, a canary does become ill, keeping it very warm and quiet is the best mode of both comforting the bird, and curing the ailment. Its diet and sanitary conditions should be examined at once and properly attended to. Herein lies the fault usually.

Broken Limbs—The best treatment usually is to let Nature heal the fractures. Remove all perches, make a bed of soft grass or dry lawn cuttings, or of flannel for the bird to lie on; place food and water cups on the floor near it and even sprinkle seeds about on the floor of the cage also. Plenty green food must be given at this

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time. Warmth and quiet with the aid of Nature will often effect a cure in a few days.

Sometimes in the case of a very bad fracture, killing the bird is the best solution of the trouble; however, if it is a valuable bird, a splint may be used. The splint naturally must be of small size and be carefully put in place. The bandage will be wrapped about to keep the splint in place, using care that the broken or fractured parts are in proper position. One familiar with the use of splints and bandages should have no trouble in doing this, but otherwise it is advisable to consult a bird expert; often the family physician will not think it beneath his professional dignity to render assistance. To make the splint fit snugly, before wrapping the bandage, pad with cotton where needed and do not remove the splint until a period of fifteen to twenty days have passed. Splints are used mostly for leg and thigh fractures but occasionally they are helpful for a broken or fractured wing.

Colds and Catarrh—Undoubtedly most canary ailments are the result of exposure to cold in cages and to debilitating drafts of cold currents of air that pass through the cages. Dampness is also a source of trouble.

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These unsanitary conditions affect the respiratory organs as they do with all classes of domestic fowls. Birds of all kinds can stand a great deal of cold—out of doors or in tree tops. But penned up, in a moist atmosphere, with the air blowing on them, and in a draft, they are unable to withstand the shock, their resistance is lowered—they get sick! These ailments show themselves as colds, and if continued, as a catarrhal condition. In colds there is difficulty in breathing and some discharge from the nose. Often in severe cases there is congestion in the intestinal tract with death resulting in a short time.

Obviously, the best treatment is to put the bird in a warm room, avoid all drafts, and protect against air impurities. Add a bit of Epsom Salts in the drinking water to clear the intestines of their contents. Further medicinal treatment consists of twenty drops of syrup of tolu, ten drops of sweet spirits of niter, and ten drops of glycerine, in one ounce of water. This solution is placed in the drinking cup of Dickey to drink. If he avoids doing this, use a medicine dropper and carefully drop a small amount into his mouth from time to time. But keep him warm and quiet; put Dickey to bed, as it

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were—as should be done with humans when they get a bad cold!

Pneumonia—Usually this respiratory ailment ends in the death of the victim. If other birds are kept, the ill bird must be isolated to avoid further danger of contagion. The sick bird usually pines away, losing its strength and vitality, dying in a few days. If not a severe case, and Dickey will partake of it, provide a diet of milk and hard boiled egg mixed with bread crumbs.

Asthma—This is a wheezing condition, more severe at night than during the day. The seat of the ailment is in the breathing—there is difficulty to breathe out the air. Indigestion may be the cause along with bad air, lack of exercise, not enough direct sunshine and improper feeding. There is a feeling among some bird authorities that asthma is hereditary, but there is no more reason for this with birds than for humans. But the fact remains that asthma is usually incurable, although better food, warmer quarters and bright, direct sunshine may often relieve it.

Constipation—Even in colds a predisposing cause may be a sluggish condition of the intestinal tract. But the fact remains, that constipation is a physical condition to

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be kept in mind in caring for canaries. Plenty of exercise helps to avoid constipation; but the food supply is the principal factor that affects the health of a bird, favorably or unfavorably. The best drugs to keep the bowels in condition are pure, clean wholesome foods—of the right character! Green feeds, such as lettuce leaves, chickweed, water-cress, apples and oranges are most helpful in keeping the bowels open and regular—with human beings as well as birds!

While the use of Epsom salts as a regular practice is not recommended for healthy birds with no tendency for constipation, its use for others where this tendency exists is often a way to avoid further trouble. Use a pinch of it in the drinking water, once a day for the time being, thereafter once a week. When you feel everything is normal again, omit the salts, but be liberal with supply of green and juicy greens and fruits.

Diarrhoea—Occasionally Dickey is troubled with an abnormal looseness of the bowels. This is usually the result of some kind of food, possibly a food partially decayed. But be the cause what it may, remove all food of a laxative nature, such as fruits and greens. For the time being sup-

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ply only clean, wholesome seeds. Scald all seed and water cups and make the cage sanitary and scrupulously clean. A good dose of Epsom salts is a good preliminary treatment. If improvement does not follow quickly, place four drops of tincture of opium in one ounce of water in the drinking cup. Castor oil is not a good cathartic for small birds.

Overgrown Claws and Beak—In a natural state birds hop about on the ground, amid stones and other cutting material, thus naturally wearing down their claws; in cages this natural process is rendered impossible. The same lack of wearing and grinding applies to the beak. As a result, both claws and the beak grow to undesirable lengths unless his keeper does for Dickey what the smooth perches, cage bottoms and feed and drink cups cannot do for him—cut them off. A pair of sharp scissors are all that are required. Don't trim them too closely so as to avoid striking a blood vessel that runs part ways down each claw. Better trim the claws slightly every few months than less often, overdoing it as many inexperienced persons often do.

Where the bill gets overlong or distorted

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through overgrowth some trimming is advisable. A sharp knife is best, but do not go deep so as to strike to the "quick" of the bill structure.

Loss of Voice—During the season of the molt a canary will sometimes lose his voice; he will take on the same position and action as when singing—opening the mouth but there will be no sound forthcoming. A chill is usually the cause for this.

There are two remedies advised for treatment: Half a teaspoonful of glycerine, and a little piece of gum arabic and about twenty drops of paregoric should be added to the drinking water. Another good treatment highly recommended is to mix about half a teaspoonful of honey in the drinking water, with a few drops of fresh lemon juice. This is a popular English remedy.

Cramps—Sometimes poor Dickey will have an attack of indigestion which will cause cramps. For relief give a mild dose of Epsom salts in the drinking water. Afterwards add a few drops of paregoric to the drinking water for a day or two. If the cramp is in the legs, hold them in warm water; after gently drying them, keep the bird very warm.

Fits—Some birds are more sensitive to

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heat, cold and other changes than others. If the cage is hung in the full blaze of the sun, or in an overheated room, or if there is cause for sudden fright when the cage is being cleaned, a condition may arise, known as "fits." In such attacks take your bird out of doors, fan it and sprinkle some water on it; sometimes smelling salts will help, after it has been taken into the fresh air.

Pip—This is the common name for clogging of the oil-gland on the rump. In every bird there is a gland just above the tail which secretes the only substance necessary for oiling the feathers, and preserving them from the effects of rain. Since in captivity birds rarely get wet, they sometimes neglect to use this gland; it swells, dries up and even ulcerates. The gland should be cleaned out. Either open with a clean needle or apply an effectual ointment. The latter remedy is preferable. The needle will cure the disease but is apt to destroy the gland and the next molting season the bird may die for want of oil to soften the feathers. A good ointment is composed of litharge, white lead, wine and olive oil.

CHAPTER VIII

INSECT PESTS

In a natural state all birds are very attentive in their attention of their plumage and in the care of their bodies. They exercise much, bath regularly, constantly air and sun themselves, and never fail to loll in the dry dust of the fields or open spaces of the forests. By so doing they keep their delicate bodies free from insects or other vermin.

It is a different story in cages. Here these natural ways of promoting healthy bodies are denied or greatly abbreviated. True, there is the bath; true, also there is air to breathe, and there is sunlight at times to shine on Dickey's body—but all so unnatural! No wonder he is delicate and an easy subject to ills and pests! The wonder should be that he gets along as well as he does.

The Bird Louse—Often a gray louse, known as bird louse, finds lodgement on the body of canaries. This louse is slender, long for its size, and gray in color. By means of strong jaws the louse fastens itself to

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the feathers at the edge of the skin and feeds upon the feather structure. There is loss of vitality to a bird from this cause but the worst feature is the irritation to the bird's skin by the claws of the louse. This ends in itching and discomfort and tries Dickey's friendly disposition to the utmost.

The best method of combat is in the use of insect powder, commonly known as pyrethrum, obtainable at any drug store. Blow the powder into the feathers of the bird, using a small bellows for the purpose. Make certain that the plumage is well parted and that the powder reaches to the skin, at the base of the feathers and that all parts of the body are covered. Repeat the dusting every five or six days for several times. By so doing all young broods hatching from eggs will be caught and the pest will be entirely destroyed.

The Red Mite—This parasite is whitish in color, but due to the fact that it is usually filled with blood, it looks red, hence the name of red mite applied to it. Inasmuch as these mites get their food by sucking the blood of their victims they rob the birds of food nutriment as well as cause them much pain and irritation. One peculiarity of these mites is their nocturnal habits. They

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visit the birds only during the night time. With a good meal and a satisfying visit they return to their haunts in the crevices or other tiny holes and hiding places about the cage. Wooden cages are more favorable for such hiding than the modern wire cages. A favorite place for them during the day in wire cages is in the slits wherein are placed the perches.

These mites are easily avoided and kept in control by using the utmost care in keeping the cages clean. But where mites are suspected the use of kerosene makes a fast end of them. By means of a brush, apply the kerosene to all parts of the cage—in every corner or crevice or notch where these tiny insects might lodge. Put the kerosene on the perches and along all edges and rims of the cage bottom. Should the infestation be severe the best immediate treatment would be dipping of the cage in a solution of carbolic acid and water. After making the solution ready, remove the canary and immerse the cage in the solution. Move the cage up and down and soon there will be an end of live mites.

A cage dipped into boiling water and held in it for a few minutes will be effective to make rid of these mites. Thereafter, us-

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ing kerosene occasionally on the perches and in the corners will make it impossible for these mites to return.

Worms—While these are internal, they sometimes do cause trouble to canaries. Their presence is noticed when present in the small fragments that come along with the other voidings from the intestinal tract. When such fragments are observed in the droppings one can resort to a common remedy that is generally effective—in the use of tincture of gentian. To one ounce of water, add ten drops of the tincture of gentian and serve in the water cup in lieu of the usual water supply. Keep this up for two, three or even four days when the trouble should end. At the same time give two or three drops of olive oil once a day, using a medicine dropper for the purpose, administering the oil in the bird's bill.

CHAPTER IX

TRAINING CANARIES

It is just as important to teach the canary to sing as it is to teach the child to speak correctly. In both instances a suitable instructor is required. In the case of the canary an expert songster must be placed at its disposal as soon as it is old enough to benefit therefrom. It is at an age of about two or three weeks when the male may be distinguished from the female by the more connected character of his song. Of course it requires experience in handling canaries to acquire this knowledge and expertness, but it is worth while.

Most of us, I believe, are more interested in knowing how to train our own canaries rather than in the initial experience of the canary as an infant. For when one purchases a canary, he has been guaranteed that the canary is a marvelous songster—if he isn't we return him for another. The inexperienced buyer may be imposed upon by a dealer; therefore, one must provide against this possibility by insisting upon a guarantee of protection. When you buy a canary you

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want to get one that sings—not one without a voice or training. Make sure that your purchase includes a definite guarantee that the bird is all that is claimed for it; and if not, that it may be returned and another that will sing will be substituted for it. It is best to have the guarantee in writing if you are not positively certain of the reliability and business integrity of the dealer or seller.

If these precautions are taken, the buyer may be pretty certain that he will own a good songster from the very start.

If we want Dickey to be unusual in his accomplishments, we teach him to sing a particular satisfactory song. And we go about it in this way: Perhaps we can sing, or play the piano, and in this day of the victrola, we can accomplish wonders. Why, there are even records made of canary songsters and these can be used for training purposes. Anyway, select a tune, play it over and over again, and one of these days you will find Dickey taking it for himself.

Canaries just love to sing—that's their business in life! To sing is why we keep them and care for them. Nothing delights them more than music. Put on your radio, and before you know it, Dickey will be fol-

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lowing the music that comes over the air—classical or dance music!

The canary is harmony personified. Young birds learn rapidly if a good example is set before them. They have a remarkable ear for music and a good memory. In many instances other song birds are introduced as exemplars and leaders. If an air is to be taught, the lesson is most profitable if given to the bird separate or apart from its companions.

Some very remarkable experiments have been successfully worked out by the German fanciers. Perhaps some of you have witnessed these instances on the stage. In vaudeville, canaries are brought out on the stage to do their tricks just like dogs and seals and elephants and horses! Thus we see them exhibited in beautiful cages, hear them imitate new tunes played by the orchestra; they even repeat short words distinctly; distinguish names, colors, letters and numbers, and perform certain actions at the word of command. One instance is that of a young female canary which was taught to select from an alphabet and place in order the letters of certain words; she even added, subtracted, and multiplied and

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indicated by means of numbers, the exact time of a watch. Hunger was the chief means used in such education, but this method of education has been since condemned.

The most recent phenomenon in the canary bird world is that accomplished by Karl Reich. This German trainer has been working for fifteen years to produce a canary chorus. "Investigation revealed Reich directing the canary choir before a microphone as a stage director would lead trained singers. There were four distinct parts. Each part was sung by four birds, one group giving a bass effect, another tenor and second tenor tones, while sopranos reached heights which rendered envious astonished divas who were watching."

Johannes Heidenreich, formerly a conductor of the Metropolitan Opera who was present at the experiment, declared the production to be remarkably successful, as well as novel, and that the songs were perfect, and the first trained bird chorus ever to be developed. From a flock of three hundred and fifty canaries, sixteen have been made perfect. From birth these birds were not allowed to hear others of their species.

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They were placed with nightingales from which they learned melody as well as how to develop more powerful tones.

This, however, is an unusual case. However, it is interesting to realize that there are really people in the world who are gratified in working with these beautiful pets, and accomplishing such unusual things. This Bremen trainer, called the Luther Burbank of the canary world, is now busy making victrola records of his bird chorus. Soon we shall all of us be listening to them on our victrolas and mayhap over the radio!

It takes several months for a canary to learn a tune perfectly. As a general rule, those tunes which have a sort of running scale will be found the easiest for them to learn. German trainers blow on the bird's feathers, and look cross and scold it when it sings a wrong note, rewarding with hempseed, or some such dainty when it performs successfully.

As I stated before, the song of birds is not, strictly speaking, natural, but acquired at the very earliest age. The knowledge of this fact should be a great assistance in teaching birds to sing artificial songs. A bird, accustomed to hearing the mewings of a cat, forgot his own melodies, and

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mewed also. He was cured by being taken to the home of a neighbor, and his cage hung near another bird who was a sweet songster. A bird of two or three years was taught to sing a national air very sweetly by some children who had a little bird-organ, and they played the tune on every possible occasion.

Besides training a canary to sing, we can make of him just as much a pet as one will of a dog, or a cat, or a horse! It is up to the individual whether this canary shall do cute tricks or not.

With kind and loving care Dickey will come to know and love you very much. You may allow him to come out of his cage, stand on your finger, fly about the room; and you will find him a most interested spectator when he is given a bit of freedom. He will hop and fly about, perhaps watch you at your sewing, or eating, or join in your conversation with his sweet twittering.

The following is an approved method of training birds: a portion, larger or smaller, is cut off from the inner plume of the pen-feathers, so that the bird cannot hurt itself if it attempts to leave the hand. The nostrils of the bird are then touched with ber-

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gamot, or any odorous oil, by which it is for a time so stupified as to perch quietly on the finger, or to hop from one finger to another. It may, indeed, attempt to fly away once or twice; but this is not often repeated, especially if the experiment be tried in a dark place—as, for example, behind a curtain, which offers the further advantage, that if the bird fall, it is not likely to hurt itself. As soon as it sits quietly on one's finger, another finger must be placed in such position as to cause the bird to step upon it, and so soon as it is accustomed to hop quietly from one finger to another, the main difficulty is overcome. For if, when the bird is gradually aroused from its state of stupefaction he perceives that his teacher does not use it roughly, he will become quite tame. Therein follows many interesting days for both teacher and pupil, for now you are enabled to begin showing Dickey cute parlor tricks—which he will enjoy to do as much as you in accomplishing the tricks.

I might mention here that canaries have an important mission in life—in spite of the fact that they are merely lovely things to look at and listen to. Canaries are very sensitive to gas fumes and impure air. So

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we find them employed by miners to inspect conditions under ground. If, when an inspector proceeds below with his canary bird and it should happen that the bird dies suddenly in hand, the inspector is informed immediately of the presence of the gas or impure air and can take the necessary precautions before proceeding further.

Somehow we dislike thinking of having a pet bird lose life so quickly—we prefer having him with us. But if canaries can be used to save human life and advance civilization they are then rendering useful service as well as otherwise entertaining us by their charming presence and melodious vocal harmony and song.

CHAPTER X

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Perches should be kept perfectly clean. Wash them with soap and water every day and do not put them back in the cage until perfectly dry. Do not dry too quickly or the heat will warp them.

2. Twice a week, detach and wash the bottom of the cage. Be careful to dry it thoroughly and cover it with fine river or field sand or gravel—not sand from the ocean for the salt is injurious.

3. Do not hang birds out of a window in a small cage open on all sides, thus exposing them to the burning rays of the sun and chilling winds.

4. Do not leave cage birds to the care of servants; for by them, canaries are generally considered as a trouble and a nuisance, and their destruction, if it be not hastened, is seldom guarded against.

5. Remember that the cage in winter should never be left in a room without a certain amount of heat and warmth.

6. A canary bird can make a great deal of work in proportion to its size, if no pre-

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cautions are taken to keep his litter from being thrown out of the cage.

7. Canaries should be daily supplied with fresh water for a bath; they will not bathe in stale or dirty water.

8. Throughout the year canaries should be supplied with green food.

9. In winter most of the common salad foods may be used and there are always apples, lettuce, carrots, and cabbage.

10. Remember to hang a cuttle fish bone in the cage as it contains lime and is resorted to for sharpening the beak.

11. Clean out the seed box daily.

12. Prepare Dickey's breakfast the night before. This is essential if the feeding is not done early in the morning before daylight. We must not forget the early habits of birds.

13. A bird's day is from sunrise to sunset.

14. No owner of a bird should retire at night without filling the water cup.

15. In the way of live food, throw in occasionally ant's eggs, small red worms, spiders, and flies, etc., that some food of an animal origin may be provided. In nature all birds pick up many insects as food.

16. Keep the bird quiet and free from sudden alarms.

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17. Sand should be coarse, very small gravel is better.

18. Don't let the birds eat stale food.

19. Don't compel the birds to drink dirty water.

20. Don't forget to clip the bird's claws when necessary.

21. In clipping do not clip so closely as to sever the blood vessel in each claw.

22. Treat the birds gently so as not to startle them.

23. During the molt no special care is required but supply a bit of hard boiled egg and flax seed two or three times a week. Make sure the bird will not get chilled during the molt.

24. Watch at all times for insect pests. Red mites are sometimes troublesome, but a bit of kerosene on the roosts will always keep them in check.

25. Do little doctoring, but feed and give such care to Dickey as will keep him in good spirits and robust health—how to do these things is the purpose of this little book.

[THE END]

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